

CLAIMS

We claim:

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1. A method for developing an application program, the application program using at least one resource file, the resource file including resource data in a markup language to be interpreted in accordance with a schema, wherein the resource file does not explicitly specify all resource data, the method comprising the steps of: identifying a first resource element data needed for the first resource element; identifying specified data for the first resource element in the resource file; and obtaining non-specified resource data, which is not explicitly specified for the first resource element in the resource file, from one of the sources in the group consisting of resource data for an implementation of a second resource element, resource data from a default style specification in the schema, resource data from a parent element of the first resource element, resource data specified by the application program, and resource data specified in programmable settings.

2. The method of claim 1 further having the step of using a software tool for editing a first resource file corresponding to the application being developed, wherein the software tool uses a markup language to write new information in the first resource file.

3. The method of claim 1 further having the step of naming the resource file in accordance with a naming scheme to aid in identifying the resource data in the resource file.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein furthermore the resource file is external to the application program.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of obtaining data includes getting default resource data from programmable settings chosen by a user in setting up a computing environment for executing the application program.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of obtaining data includes getting default resource data from resource data used to implement the parent node of a current node in a tree formed by parsing the markup language in the resource file wherein the current node corresponds to the first resource element.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of obtaining data includes getting default resource data from the default style specification for a graphical user interface.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of obtaining data includes getting default resource data from data used to implement the parent node of a current node in a tree formed by parsing the markup language in the resource file wherein the current node corresponds to the first resource element.

9. A system for developing an application program in an environment including developers for modifying code, designers for evaluating aesthetic and ease of use of a user interface for the application program, the system comprising: a resource file containing information encoded in accordance with a markup language; a resource-loader routine in the operating system for retrieving information from the resource file responsively to a resource-requesting call made by the application program and obtaining a tree corresponding to the markup language; an interpreter for rendering parsed markup language encoded information in the resource file; and at least one default source of resource information wherein the resource information is not explicitly specified in the resource file.

10. The system of claim 9 wherein a schema for the markup language is a first default source of resource information.

11. The system of claim 9 wherein a style specification is a first default source of resource information.

12. The system of claim 9 wherein an implementation of a resource element is a first default source of resource information.

5 13. The system of claim 12 wherein the first default information includes reference values for implementing explicitly specified resource information in the resource file.

10 14. The system of claim 9 wherein a parent node of a current node in a tree corresponding to the markup language in the resource file is a first default source of resource information.

15 15. The system of claim 9 wherein at least one programmable setting is a first default source of resource information.

16. The system of claim 9 wherein the application program is a first default source of resource information not found in the resource file.

20 17. The system of claim 9 wherein the resource loader obtains resource information from a first default source if the resource file includes explicit instructions to use default resource information.

25 18. Computer readable media storing executable instructions for implementing a method for developing an application program, the application program using at least one resource file, the resource file including resource data in a markup language to be interpreted in accordance with a schema, wherein furthermore the resource file does not specify all of the resource information, the method comprising the steps of: identifying a first resource element data needed for the first resource element; identifying specified data for the first resource element in the resource file; and obtaining non-specified resource data, which is not
30 explicitly specified for the first resource element in the resource file, from one of

the sources in the group consisting of resource data for an implementaton of a second resource element, resource data from a default style specification in the schema, resource data from a parent element of the first resource element, resource data specified by the application program, and resource data specified in programmable settings.

19. The computer readable media of claim 18 wherein the step of completing the creation of the first resource using default information includes accessing a style specification.

20. The computer readable media of claim 19 wherein the style specification is provided in the markup language.

21. The computer readable media of claim 18 wherein the step of completing the creation of the first resource using default information includes accessing the implementation of a second resource.

22. The computer readable media of claim 18 wherein the step of obtaining data includes getting default resource data from programmable settings chosen by a user in setting up a computing environment for executing the application program.

23. The computer readable media of claim 18 wherein wherein the step of obtaining data includes getting default resource data from the default style specification for a graphical user interface.

24. The computer readable media of claim 18 wherein the step of obtaining data includes getting default resource data from data used to implement the parent node of a current node in a tree formed by parsing the markup language in the resource file wherein the current node corresponds to the first resource element.

25. The computer readable media of claim 18 wherein the step of obtaining data includes getting default resource data from resource data used to implement the parent node of a current node in a tree formed by parsing the markup language in the resource file wherein the current node corresponds to the first resource element.

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